

# GEOGRAPHICAL CHANGES

Due to The Great War

By  
GEORGE A. CORNISH, B.A.,  
and  
DAVID WHYTE, B.A.



Recommended by the Department of Education of  
Ontario, for use in Collegiate Institutes, High  
Schools, and Continuation Schools

TORONTO

Printed and Published by A. T. WILGRESS, Printer  
to the King's Most Excellent Majesty

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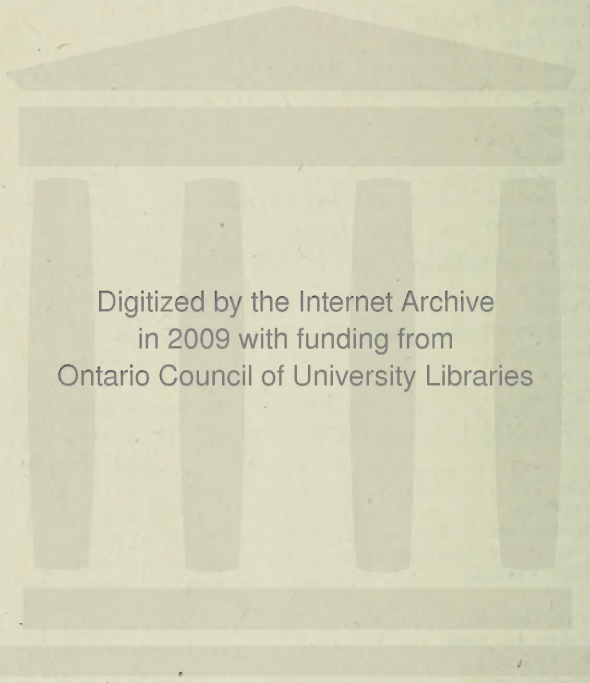
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# GEOGRAPHICAL CHANGES DUE TO THE GREAT WAR

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## INTRODUCTION

DURING the Great War there was an unprecedented destruction of property. At the same time there was a diversion of industries from the production of the necessities of civil life to the production of articles of war. Thus there was a double force that caused serious disturbance of the economic and commercial conditions of the world. These disturbances will no doubt be but temporary, and industries will be gradually readjusted to their normal channels.

The more permanent changes that took place during the war or are being made by treaties since the conclusion of the war are those affecting the boundaries of the nations of Europe.

These territorial changes are, for the most part, a breaking-down process. Small nationalities that had been absorbed by larger took advantage of the shattering of the military strength of Germany, Austria, and Russia, to demand their political freedom.

In the greater number of cases, the new boundaries will be or have been fixed with due regard to the wishes of these smaller nationalities. In certain cases, the popular vote of the people is to decide the flag under which the area is to be placed.

Although nearly two years have passed since the signing of the Armistice (November 11th, 1918), which

virtually brought the Great War to a close, the territorial alterations are still far from being completed. Only in the case of certain territories can the boundaries and ownership be stated with certainty, while in the case of some the greatest uncertainty covers their future.

One thing of which we are sure is that the Germany of to-day is quite different from the Germany that entered the war in July, 1914.

Toward the close of the war the German Empire found itself in the throes of a revolution. As a result of this revolution, not only was Kaiser Wilhelm forced to abdicate his throne, but the monarchs of the other German states were deposed. Republican governments took the place of monarchical throughout Germany.

By the treaty signed and ratified by Germany on June 28th, 1919, Germany lost at least one eighth of the area of her empire. If the plebiscites to decide the ownership of certain other portions result unfavourably to Germany, the loss of territory within Europe may amount to one sixth of the former empire. By other provisions of the treaty Germany gives up all her colonies outside of Europe, together with all claim to special concessions that she had obtained from other countries.






The treaty also restricts Germany's military strength, by reducing her army and by forbidding her to maintain or construct any fortifications on the left bank of the Rhine or on the right bank to the west of a line drawn fifty kilometres to the east of the Rhine.

The surrender of the German fleet to the Allies, and the restrictions placed upon her programme for building and maintaining vessels of war, together with the destruction of all docks and fortifications in the great German naval station of the Island of Heligoland have put an end to Germany's dream of supremacy of the sea.





**LEGEND**

-  FORMER GERMAN AREAS
-  " AUSTRO HUNGARIAN AREAS
-  " RUSSIAN AREAS
-  PLEBISCITE AREAS
-  CLAIMED BY UKRAINE AND BY POLAND



## EUROPE

**Cessions from Germany to Belgium.**—By the treaty Germany cedes to Belgium the three small border districts of Morisnet, Eupen, and Malmedy. The two latter were Prussian territories, while part of Morisnet, known as Morisnet Neutral, was controlled partly by Belgium and partly by Prussia. The remaining portion of Morisnet was Prussian. The total population that will thus be added to Belgium is about 25,000.

Eupen and Malmedy are country towns surrounded by rich pasture lands. Dairying is extensively carried on in this locality. The towns have manufactures of soap, leather, cloth, and dyes. Morisnet is situated close to a hill in which is one of the richest zinc mines in the world.

**Cessions from Germany to France — Alsace-Lorraine.**—In 1871 Germany wrested from France the two provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. By the recent treaty this territory is reunited to France.

Alsace-Lorraine is a rich and prosperous region, having an area a little greater than twice the area of Prince Edward Island. It has fertile and well-cultivated farms, rich mines of coal and iron, and valuable manufactures of iron, cotton, woollens, and gloves.

The population, numbering nearly two million, is largely of German race and language; but their political inclination is strongly toward France, and they welcome the reunion.

Strasbourg, the principal city of Alsace-Lorraine, is one of the great manufacturing cities of France. The port of Strasbourg and the port of Kehl on the Rhine are, by the terms of the treaty, to constitute a unit for a term of seven years. The administration of this unit is to be

placed under the control of the Rhine Commission. The vessels, goods, and peoples of all countries are to be accorded equal rights in both ports. The area of the unit may be enlarged to permit of the extension of wharves and railway terminals. The whole course of the Rhine being now open to the ships of all nations, the acquisition of Alsace-Lorraine by France and the establishment of the free zone of the ports of Strasbourg and Kehl will no doubt cause a rapid development of the manufacturing and commercial industries of eastern France.

**Cession of the Saar Basin.**—To compensate France for the destruction of manufacturing plants and coal mines, and particularly the mines near Lille, Germany cedes to France the coal mines of the Saar Basin. This district lies along the south-west valley of the Rhine River near the border of Alsace-Lorraine and has an area equal to that of an average Ontario county. All the coal mines, whether previously under private ownership or under the operation of the German State, pass into the hands of France. The government of the district is placed under the control of a committee representing the League of Nations.

Fifteen years after the date of the signing of the treaty, the inhabitants of the Saar Basin are to decide by vote whether they will remain under the control of the League of Nations, return to Germany, or become part of the French Republic. In case they decide to return to Germany, the latter country must purchase the coal mines from France at a price to be decided by three experts.

**Luxemburg.**—The Grandduchy of Luxemburg, which was nominally an independent state, had passed gradually under the control of Germany. The treaties securing this control are now renounced by Germany, and she consents to accept whatever arrangements the Allies may make concerning Luxemburg.

**Schlesweig.**—The frontier between Denmark and Germany has been fixed in conformity with the wishes of the people who inhabit the northern part of the province of Schlesweig. The population of the district in which the plebiscite was taken is of mixed Danish and German origin. To arrive at a fair expression of the will of the people, the district was divided into two voting divisions—a northern and a southern. The larger proportion of the population of the latter division is of German ancestry, and it has voted in favour of remaining part of the fatherland. The majority of the voters of the northern division are of Danish stock and have expressed their desire to be united with Denmark.

The whole district whose area has thus been decided by vote has an area somewhat less than that of Prince Edward Island. It is an agricultural land in which dairying and the growing of flax and sugar beets are the principal branches of farming.

**Cession to Poland.**—One of the direct consequences of the war is the re-establishment of an independent Poland. Germany contributes to this new republic territory lying in the basins of the Oder and Elbe Rivers whose area is almost equal to that of the Province of Nova Scotia, and she agrees to accept the result of a plebiscite to decide the ownership of other districts. The total area of the latter amounts to nearly one half of that already ceded to Poland.

In the territory given over to Poland the Polish language predominates, but large numbers of Germans also live in these districts.

One result of the effort to fix the boundaries in accordance with racial origin is that a strip of Poland runs north along the Vistula and separates a part of Eastern Prussia from the rest of Germany. The treaty secures to Germany

the right of free railway traffic across this intercepting part of Poland.

**The Free City of Danzig.**—Danzig, situated on the Vistula River near its mouth, was one of the cities of old Poland. It has been in the possession of Germany for nearly a century and a half, and the population is now largely German. Since it is surrounded by the territories of new Poland, the latter country claimed the right to govern the city. As a compromise between the German and the Polish claims, it has been made a free city. The city, together with an area of surrounding land as large as the County of York, Ontario, is to have a government of its own, under the protection of the League of Nations. It has a population of nearly two hundred thousand. The several arms of the Vistula below the city have been dredged to permit the passage of large ocean ships, and the port has been made free to all the nations of the world. Danzig will become the port for the overseas trade between Poland and other countries. The manufactures of the city are extensive and consist of steel, cloth, oil, sugar, and alcohol.

**Ceded to the League of Nations.**—The small strip of East Prussia that lies north of the Nieman River is ceded by Germany to the League of Nations. As the population of this area is of the same race as the Lithuanians and speaks the same language as these people, the League of Nations will probably attach this strip to Lithuania.

**Ceded to Czecho-Slovakia.**—In the south-east corner of Silesia there is an area as large as two ordinary Ontario townships, with a population almost wholly Czech. This district is ceded by Germany to the new republic of Czecho-Slovakia. Germany further agrees to accept the result of

a plebiscite upon the cession to Czecho-Slovakia of the part of Silesia lying north of the area already given over. The total area of this part of Silesia is nearly nine thousand square miles. It is a land very rich in agricultural and mineral resources.

#### POLAND

Previous to 1772 Poland was one of the largest countries of Europe. Her territories included not only those occupied by the Poles, but also the land of the Lithuanians, together with nearly all that part of Russia which lies west of the Dnieper River. Weakness of government and jealousies among the Polish nobles made the country an easy prey to Austria, Russia, and Germany. These countries, in a series of wars between 1772 and 1795, robbed Poland of her border-lands and, finally, of her independence. But in spite of the oppression of their conquerors, the Polish people have retained their language and their national spirit.

While the recent war was in progress, the Poles asserted their independence and set up a republican government. Ignace Paderewski, the great musician, became premier of the republic in 1919.

It has already been stated that Germany ceded to Poland an area (including the plebiscite district) considerably greater than that of Nova Scotia. The Poles at present are at war with the Bolsheviki of Russia, and the boundaries between Poland and Russia have not been fixed. No doubt the League of Nations will endeavour to confine the limits of New Poland to the country in which the majority of the inhabitants are of Polish nationality.

It is by no means easy to fix the boundaries upon this basis, for in the east Poles and Little Russians mingle

along the disputed boundary of Ukraine and Hungary. Ukraine bases her demands upon the fact that a large proportion of the population of the disputed area consists of Little Russians. The allegiance of the eastern portion of Silesia is to be decided by plebiscite. The area in which the vote is to be taken is one half that of Nova Scotia.

If the claims of New Poland are fully sustained, the total area of her country will be equal to one half the area of France, and the population will be twelve million. The country is rich in agricultural and mineral resources, and almost twenty per cent. of the total area is covered with forest.

The fundamental industries of the country are fostered by a careful system of education carried on in schools of agriculture, mining, and forestry.

Agriculture is in a more advanced condition than in any other country east of Germany. The field crops consist of sugar beets, potatoes, rye, oats, and buckwheat. Good breeds of horses and cattle are reared, and bee-keeping is an important branch of agriculture.

Southern Poland abounds in minerals. These include copper, iron, coal, zinc, and sulphur.

The manufacturing industries are a direct development from the natural products. A skilful and carefully trained people have brought these industries to a highly developed state. The most important manufactures are leather, iron, sugar, tobacco, and distilled liquors.

Warsaw, on the Vistula River, is the capital of Poland. The Vistula is a valuable waterway. This, together with a system of railways, makes Warsaw the commercial centre of the country. The city has a population of nearly one million. It contains colleges of music and arts and has large manufacturing industries.



## AUSTRIA

Nowhere will the new map of Europe be more different from the old than in the case of the area which formerly constituted the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary. The territory that was contained in that great empire has been distributed among four separate republics—Austria, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, and Jugo-Slavia. The two latter include territory that was not included in Austria-Hungary, and each will probably be larger than either Austria or Hungary.

The new republic of Austria is composed of that part of the old empire whose people are chiefly of German stock. The population will be less than eight million.

On the border between Austria and Jugo-Slavia lies the district of Carinthia, which contains the city of Klagenfurt, with a mixed Germanic and Slavonic population. The ownership of this district is to be decided by plebiscite.

Old Austria included two districts peopled chiefly by Italians. One of these is the Alpine district known as Trentino. The other is the district of Istria, which contains the large and important seaport of Trieste at the head of the Adriatic Sea. Both these districts are ceded by Austria to Italy.

The new Austria is a land of varied resources. The country is mountainous, but the numerous valleys contain a fertile soil that is cultivated by a frugal and thrifty peasantry. The chief agricultural products are wheat, rye, oats, sugar beets, potatoes, corn, and tobacco.

Although the mountainous districts retained by Austria contain valuable mines of coal, iron, and copper, the cession to Czecho-Slovakia of the richest mineral areas of old Austria will greatly lessen the industrial importance of new Austria.

Electrical energy has been extensively developed by utilizing the rapids and falls of the numerous mountain streams, and Austria will continue to be an important manufacturing country for such articles as iron-ware, glass, porcelain, laces, gloves, silk, cotton, musical and surgical instruments.

Vienna (2,149,800), the capital of Austria, is delightfully situated on the Danube. It is a city whose people rival those of Paris in their taste for the refined and beautiful and in their love of gaiety and elegance of dress. The manufactures are extensive and comprise woollens, cotton, silk, leather, hardware, musical instruments, and porcelain.

#### HUNGARY

The boundaries of the new republic of Hungary have for the most part been definitely settled. By the provisions of the treaty the distribution of territories reduces the areas to much less than that of old Hungary. An effort has been made to include within the boundaries the territory in which the majority of the population is Hungarian (Magyar). The Hungarians are descendants of an Asiatic people who came up the Danube River nearly a thousand years ago.

The problem of the boundaries of Hungary was a complicated one. On the east is Transylvania with a population composed of Hungarians and Rumanians in nearly equal numbers, while on the south there is a gradual change from Hungarian to Jugo-Slav. On the north the land of the Ruthenians was claimed by Poland, by Ukraine, and also by Hungary. The final settlement gives to Hungary the great central plain of the old kingdom.

New Hungary is an undulating plain, and across this the Danube River flows. This river is an important waterway for the commerce of the countries from Germany to the Black Sea. The soil of Hungary is fertile and pro-

duces large crops of wheat, corn, sugar beets, and tobacco. There are also large areas of pasture for horses, sheep, and cattle.

Budapest, the capital and largest city of Hungary, has a population of six hundred thousand. It comprises the former cities of Buda on the right bank of the Danube and Pest on the left bank. The river separating these two parts is spanned by six large bridges. The political union of the cities took place in 1812. Situated where the Danube issues from the Carpathian Mountains, it commands the entrance to the Hungarian plains. At this point the Danube is one quarter of a mile in width, and quays line its banks for two and one half miles. Budapest is the social and educational, as well as the political, centre of Hungary. It has a university and an academy of music. The manufactures are extensive and include flour, sugar, distilled liquors, and machinery for factories, mills, and railways.

### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

The republic of Czecho-Slovakia comprises about one fifth of the area of old Austria-Hungary. Germany cedes to this republic a small district of south-eastern Silesia, the population of which is Czech. The name of the country is derived from the names of the two Slavonic peoples, the Czechs and the Slovaks, who inhabit it. The Czechs occupy Bohemia and some neighbouring provinces of Old Austria, while the Slovaks inhabit the northern province of old Hungary. As there is a fairly sharp boundary separating these peoples from the Germans, Poles, and Hungarians, the political boundaries of Czecho-Slovakia will probably correspond quite closely to the linguistic boundaries.

This republic will have an area about one fourth as great as France and a population of about fourteen million.

The country consists of a plateau surrounded by mountains. Twenty per cent. of the total area is covered with forest. The plateau opens by the Danube to the Hungarian plain and by the Elbe to the German plain. This position is one of great advantage from the point of contact with the intellectual and commercial life of the other peoples of Central Europe.

The Czechs of Bohemia and Moravia are among the best educated and most progressive peoples of Europe. The agricultural and manufacturing industries are highly developed, and schools of mining and metallurgy give training in utilizing the rich stores of minerals. The richest coal and iron mines of old Austria-Hungary are in the territories of Czecho-Slovakia.

Many of the Czechs and a large proportion of the Slovaks are farmers who live in village communities of such a nature that every family has a holding of land. The country is thus able to grow almost all the food it consumes. The farm products are similar to those of Austria and Hungary. On the low plains of Southern Bohemia grapes and semi-tropical fruits grow to perfection.

The manufactures are of many kinds, including iron, steel, glass, chemicals, musical instruments, textiles, and gold and silver wares.

The disadvantage of having no coast-line is largely offset by the waterways of the Elbe, Oder, and Danube, which are now free to the shipping of all nations.

Prague, on a tributary of the Elbe River, is the capital. Next to Vienna it was the greatest manufacturing city of old Austria-Hungary. The Czech university, the centre of education of the Austrian Slav races, is located here. The city has several well-preserved churches that are relics of former greatness. The most noteworthy of these

is one that was built in the sixteenth century and is modelled after St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome.

Brunn, the principal city of Moravia, has a population of one hundred and thirty thousand. Seventy per cent. of this population is German. The city dates from the ninth century, when it was a Slav stronghold surrounded by a wall. On account of the extent and variety of its manufactures, Brunn has been called the Manchester of Austria.

**Cessions of Austria to Italy.**—Austria cedes to Italy the two border districts of Trieste, together with adjoining lands, and the Trentino. The latter includes the city of Trent. The population of these two cities is largely Italian, but that of the lands adjoining Trieste is largely German and Jugo-Slav.

Trent was the capital city of the south division of the Austrian province of Tyrol. It attained importance in the eighth century as a station on the great road leading across the Alps of the Tyrol. Its antiquated walls and its numerous palaces and towers give to the city a most picturesque appearance when viewed from the mountains to the north. In this city the historic Council of Trent assembled (1545-1565) to make clear the creed of the Roman Catholic Church, particularly upon the points that were in controversy with the Protestants.

The greatness of the city is historic rather than industrial. The industries are limited to silk spinning and the making of Italian sausages.

**Trieste.**—Trieste, situated at the head of the Adriatic Sea, has a large share of the trade of the Adriatic. It has far surpassed its old rival, Venice, because its harbour is more readily accessible to large vessels, and also because it was the principal seaport of Austria-Hungary.

Farther south, along the coast of the Adriatic, are

towns and seaports with populations chiefly Italian, though the country immediately interior to them is solidly Jugo-Slav. At the end of the Great War Italy took possession of the narrow strip of coast along the Adriatic. The right of Italy to this territory is contested by Jugo-Slavia. The most important port in this disputed coastline is Fiume, a city with a population of forty-five thousand. Two railways connect it with the interior of Jugo-Slavia; and the overseas trade of the provinces now forming the northern part of this country has passed through this port for more than half a century. It has been suggested that a compromise be made by giving to Jugo-Slavia the territory interior to Fiume, and creating Fiume a free city by an arrangement similar to that made in the case of Danzig.

Avlonia, an Albanian port on the Adriatic just opposite the "heel," is also claimed by Italy.

The area of the European territory annexed or claimed by Italy is equal to about one half of that of the province of Nova Scotia.

### JUGO-SLAVIA

This new country came into existence before the close of the Great War. It was the outcome of a union between the Serbs of Serbia and the Slavonians, Croates, and Serbs of certain southern provinces of old Austria-Hungary. All these peoples are of the Slav race and speak similar languages. The name Jugo-Slav means "south slav," as distinguished from the Slavs of Czecho-Slovakia.

In addition to the areas already united to form this country, the political allegiance of Klagenfurt, in Austria, near the southern boundary, is to be decided by plebiscite.

The area of Jugo-Slavia is about equal to that of the Maritime Provinces of Canada, and the population is estimated at eight million.

In the east the country consists of a plain through which the Danube River and its tributary, the Save, flow. In the west the country is mountainous. The mountains, in some cases, reach a height of more than five thousand feet.

The inhabitants of Jugo-Slavia are a simple, frugal people. They love brightly-coloured costumes and delight in festive gatherings. At these gatherings the chief amusements are dancing and singing folk songs. The Serbs are of the Orthodox Greek Church, while the Croates and Slavonese are Roman Catholics.

The agricultural resources of the country are valuable. In the south and east the fig, the grape, the olive, maize, and tobacco are grown, and the plum is very extensively cultivated. In the more westerly districts the elevation is much greater. Here the hardier cereals—wheat, oats, barley, and rye—are cultivated. Horses, sheep, and goats are pastured in the mountains.

There is considerable mineral wealth, and iron, coal, lead, copper, and silver are mined.

Forests of oaks, beeches, and pines grow in the rougher mountain regions, and the conservation of these has aided in keeping up the lumber supply of South-eastern Europe. While the greater number of the inhabitants of the country are farmers and shepherds, some manufacturing is carried on in the villages and towns. Weaving of wool, making articles of leather, refining sugar, and making wine, stand in close relationship to the agriculture of the country. In certain towns articles of iron and copper are manufactured.

The government is still in an unsettled state. Some of the people desire a republican government, while others favour a kingdom under the royal house of Serbia.

**Cities.**—The Adriatic Coast of Jugo-Slavia is mountainous, and the only seaport of value is Fiume. We

have already seen that this port is claimed by Italy, the claim being based upon the fact that fully one half of the population are Italians. The remainder of the population is largely Jugo-Slav. Belgrade is the capital of the new country.

#### LITHUANIA

In the breaking up of the Russian Empire, several republics came into existence along the Baltic Sea. Lithuania, the most southerly of these, lies immediately north of Poland. It has an area almost twice as great as that of the Maritime Provinces of Canada and a population of four million.

The Lithuanians, together with the Letts of Courland and Livonia, constitute the Baltic group of the white race in Europe. There are many Russians, Poles, and Germans mingled with the Lithuanians. Lithuania formed part of old Poland, and New Poland is desirous of annexing it.

The surface of the country is a level, sandy plain with numerous lakes and peat bogs. Nowhere is the elevation greater than nine hundred feet. Fully twenty per cent. of the whole area is covered with forest.

The winter climate is cold. The average temperature for January is twenty-two degrees Fahrenheit. The principal industries are agriculture, forestry, and manufacturing.

The field crops consist of potatoes, oats, barley, flax, rye, and tobacco. Cattle, horses, and sheep are reared.

The manufactures consist of woollens, leather, distilled liquors, and flour.

Vilna, the capital, (170,000) is an important centre of trade in timber and grain.

A small part of East Prussia lying north-east of the Nieman River is ceded by Germany to the League of Nations. As the population of this district is largely Lithuanian, it will probably be given over to Lithuania.



## LATVIA OR LETLAND

The land of the Letts includes Courland and Livonia and has an area equal to that of Scotland. The Letts are a people numbering nearly one million, who speak a language very similar to that of the Lithuanians. Mingled with the Letts are many communities of Esths, who have retained their language, racial features, and traditions to a remarkable degree.

In addition to an extensive coast-line along the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga, the Dvina River furnishes an interior waterway.

The surface of the country is an undulating plain, which in Livonia rises to a plateau one thousand feet above the sea. Numerous small lakes and sand dunes dot the surface, and forests of pine and fir cover nearly one third of the total area.

The soil of the western portion is fairly fertile, but that of the eastern is too sandy to be very productive. Previous to the formation of the present republics, the greater portion of the land was owned by the nobles. These were of German descent. The reorganization will probably distribute the land among the peasantry. The social and educational standing of the people of Courland is one of the lowest in Europe.

The summer climate is damp and foggy, and the winters are severe.

The principal industries of Letland are farming and lumbering. The farms produce rye, oats, barley, flax, and potatoes. There are also extensive pasture lands. Lumber, wool, and dairy products are the chief exports of the country.

Some manufacturing is carried on, but it is of minor importance. Leather and woollen goods, glass, and soap are the chief products of the factories.

Riga, the largest city, has a population of five hundred and sixty thousand. It is situated on the Gulf of Riga at the mouth of the Dvina (Düna) River. It was a strong Russian naval station and is one of the most important trading ports of northern Europe.

### ESTHONIA

During the revolution in Russia, while the Great War was in progress, the Esths, who occupy the territory lying along the south of the Gulf of Finland, declared their independence and set up the republic of Esthonia. The area of this small country is about one half the area of Nova Scotia, and its population is approximately one million.

The Esths are a branch of the Mongolian race. The Mongolian physical features are shown by the short stature, absence of beard, slant eyes, and low forehead. They cling tenaciously to their native language and have a passionate love of poetry and song. For a century the Russians have tried in vain to obliterate these national characteristics, by enforcing the use of Russian in the schools of the province and by harsh and repressive measures directed against the Esthonian language.

The Esthonians first appeared in history as a race of warlike plunderers. In the early part of the thirteenth century the northern part of Esthonia was subdued by Waldemar II, King of Denmark. He built a fortified city at Revel, which is now the capital, and established a garrison to enforce submission. The southern part of Esthonia was subdued by the German crusaders, who were called the Knights of the Sword. From these the nobility of Esthonia originated. For centuries these nobles held the Esthonians in a condition of serfdom. Nearly one hundred and fifty years ago the country came into the possession of Russia.

Esthonia is part of the Baltic plain, and nowhere is the elevation greater than four hundred and fifty feet. Since the occupation by Russia, nearly forty per cent. of the peasantry have become owners of their own lands, and no doubt the nobles will be forced to yield their claims to the remainder.

The Esths are among the best educated and most progressive peoples of Eastern Europe. Their advanced condition is reflected in their scientific methods of agriculture. Their methods of dairying are unsurpassed, and, although the soil of the country is naturally poor, careful cultivation causes it to yield good crops of vegetables and the hardier cereals.

Revel, the capital and only seaport, has a valuable shipping trade. The principal exports are meat and dairy produce.

#### FINLAND

In 1917 Finland declared her independence, and, after the close of the war, set up a republican government. The Finns are a branch of the Mongolian race and speak a language somewhat similar to that of the Esthonians. They have occupied Finland since the close of the seventh century and have been under the control of Russia for more than one hundred years. The history of their struggle to preserve their nationality and language while under Russian oppression is a very painful one.

The Finns are a well-educated and progressive people. There is a national university at the present capital, Helsingfors. Free libraries and schools suited to the general and industrial education of the people are distributed throughout the country. The larger proportion of the people are farmers or herdsmen, and schools of agriculture and dairying are especially well supported.

The Republic of Finland extends from the Gulf of Finland northward along the east coast of the Gulf of

Bothnia. The territory will probably include part of Lapland and will reach almost to the Arctic ocean. The area is almost equal to that of the British Isles, and the population is about three million. The surface consists of a low plateau with a labyrinth of lakes and rapid streams. Several ranges of moranic hills run from north-east to south-west across the Republic. In the southern portion of the country these hills are covered with forests, which support fairly extensive industries in lumbering and in the manufacturing of woodenware.

Fishing and mining are industries of less importance. Bog iron ore, which is taken from the lake beds, is the chief mineral product. Small quantities of silver and copper are also obtained.

The principal exports of the country are paper, woodenware, and dairy produce, and the chief imports are cereals and flour.

Helsingfors (120,000) the capital, is a seaport situated on the Gulf of Finland.

#### RUMANIA

Rumania has had a greater increase of territory as a result of the war than any other country in Europe. Her boundaries have been extended chiefly to the east and the north. The addition of Bessarabia, a Russian province, bounded on the east by the Dniester River, and of Transylvania, and a part of the Banat taken from Hungary, makes her one of the large countries of Europe. These provinces were added to Rumania because the majority of their people belong to the same race and speak the same language as do the Rumanians. They are not Slavs, but descendants of Roman settlers placed along the Danube River by various Roman Emperors. Their language, consequently, is more closely related to Latin than to the languages of the surrounding nations.

Transylvania is a rough, mountainous country and contains numerous minerals, the most valuable of which are gold, silver, and iron. The higher parts are covered with timber, which will probably make Rumania one of the few countries of Europe having surplus lumber for export.

On the other hand, the Banat, just west of Transylvania, includes a part of the fertile Hungarian plain and is agricultural, wheat and corn being the most abundant crops.

Bessarabia is a very fertile land, the surface being composed of the black earth that makes Southern Russia one of the most productive parts of the world. Wheat and barley are the chief crops, and large numbers of horses, sheep, cattle, and buffalo graze on the higher lands. Since Bessarabia is bordered by two navigable rivers—the Pruth on the west and the Dniester on the east—no part of it is far from navigation facilities.

### BULGARIA

Very slight changes have been made in the boundaries of Bulgaria. A few small, isolated parts on the western border have been transferred to Jugo-Slavia, evidently because the majority of their people were Serbs and not Bulgars. The section called Thrace, bordering on the Aegean Sea, has been transferred to Greece. Since the loss of the latter section cuts Bulgaria off entirely from the Aegean Sea, it is a serious blow to her transportation. Her only water outlet is now through the Black Sea.

### GREECE

Greece has profited much by the war. The Greeks are daring sailors, skilful traders, and successful colonizers, and have established many settlements on the islands of the Aegean Sea, around the coasts of both the Black Sea

and the Aegean, and especially on the sea-board of Asia Minor. Of all these settlements the most notable is composed of the city of Smyrna and the surrounding district, which has been placed under Greek control. As Smyrna is not only the largest city in Asiatic Turkey, but is also the emporium for most of the goods that come overland from the east, Greece may consider that she has gained one of the prizes of the war. Of the Aegean Islands the group about Rhodes, called Dodecanese, in the south-east, were given to Italy, and she immediately handed them over to Greece. All the remainder of the islands, which were formerly Turkish, now become part of Greece.

On her northern border Greece's chief accessions are a part of Southern Albania and the province of Thrace, which includes not only the region taken from Bulgaria, but also a large part of European Turkey, which extends to the Black Sea and includes the city of Adrianople. The first of these districts is not of very great importance, for Albania is a very mountainous, backward country; but, though Greece already owned many of the best harbours on the Aegean Sea, the addition of Thrace makes her a very powerful Balkan nation.

#### UKRAINE

Finland, Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, and Bessarabia, along the western frontier of Russia, have been separated from the motherland, and all have been erected into independent republics with the exception of Bessarabia, which has been absorbed by Rumania. The eastern boundaries of these new countries have not been fixed, since, up to the present, they have not made final settlements with Russia.

Ukraine is the largest and most populous of all these new republics, but its boundaries are so uncertain that no

two maps agree in regard to them. It occupies the most fertile part of Russia, the district where the noted black earth covers the surface. Wheat and barley are the two chief cereal crops. Besides Kiev, the capital, on the Dnieper, there are many other cities.

In the part of Russia beyond the Caucasus Mountains, a number of small republics, such as Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia have arisen, but the permanence of some of these states is doubtful.

### RUSSIA

Events in Russia are largely a sealed book, as information received about this country is either partial or prejudiced. Of a few things, however, we are tolerably certain. Agriculture has reached a low ebb, and production is so greatly reduced that, instead of Russia being one of the greatest exporters of food in the world, as formerly, her people are starving. Transportation is in a deplorable condition. In many cases coal is not available for fuel on the railways, and the rolling stock, which was largely worn out during the war, has been replaced to only a small extent. Manufacturing has decreased to an alarming degree, owing to the unsettled state of affairs, the destruction of many establishments, and the difficulty of obtaining suitable and sufficient labour. As commercial relations between Russia and the other countries of Europe have been broken off since the Bolsheviki rose to power, Russia's exports and imports have almost reached the vanishing point. But there are signs that trade with that country will soon be renewed.

## AFRICA

Germany's chief colonial possessions were in Africa. She aimed to use these colonies for several purposes. In the first place, because Germany had developed rapidly into an industrial country, she was anxious to have in her colonies a sure source of many of the necessary raw materials, such as cotton, wool, silk, cocoa, oil-seeds of various kinds, and cabinet woods. She also wished to find a market in her colonies for many of her manufactured products. Again, the population of Germany had rapidly increased, and every year much of her surplus population settled in foreign countries such as the United States, Brazil, and Canada. She thus saw many of her best citizens slipping out of her grasp. By settling her surplus population in her own colonies she hoped to retain their citizenship for the fatherland.

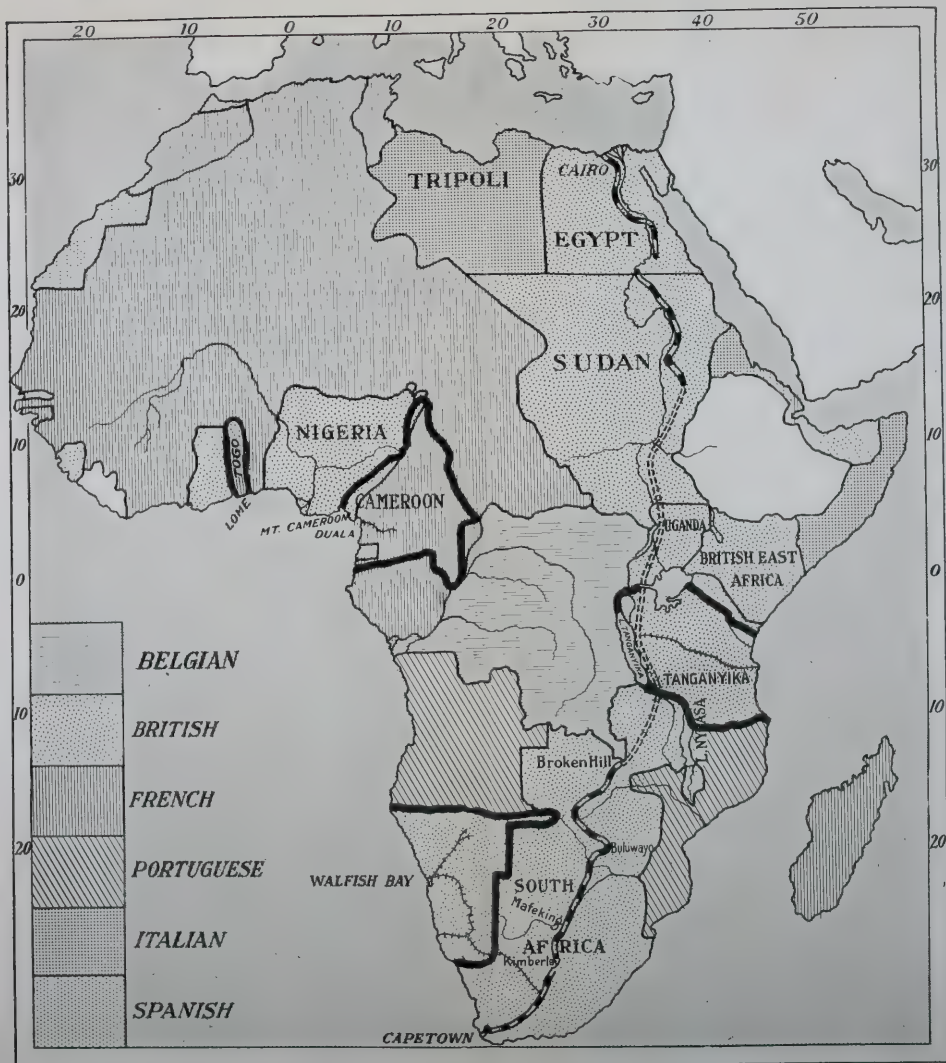
We shall now consider each of the colonies in turn, in order to find how far these ambitions had progressed by 1914, and how far the acquisition of these colonies by other nations will affect geographical conditions.

### TOGO

Togo, the smallest, but formerly the only self-supporting German colony in Africa, is situated on the Gulf of Guinea, with British colonies on the west and French colonies on the east and the north. Its area is a little greater than that of New Brunswick, but the population is over one million, and consists almost entirely of blacks, only a few hundred whites (mostly Germans) living in the colony.

Togo has been divided between its two neighbours on the east and the west. The northern half has been attached







to the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast Colony of Great Britain; the southern half, with a coast-line about thirty miles long, but without a harbour, has been attached to the French colony of Dahomey.

The Germans had made great progress in Togo. About two hundred miles of railway connect the chief port, Lome, with some of the larger trading villages, and excellent roads ramify from these trading centres to the more outlying villages. Practically all the railways are in the part now under a French mandate. This district has a heavy rainfall and dense forests, and much of it near the coast is unhealthy. The chief products are cocoanuts, cocoa, coffee, cotton, rubber, ebony, palm-oil, palm kernels, and ginger. The northern, or British, half is drier, and is largely grassland. The chief occupations are pastoral. Cattle and sheep are reared extensively, and on the higher land, which forms the boundary between the British and French sections, small horses of several breeds are raised in large numbers.

### CAMEROON

The English traders in the early days of African discovery had a few great landmarks along the West African coast to guide their sailing ships. They stated that after passing the mouth of the Niger River, just at the turn of the coast, there towered up a great conical mountain, and that just beyond it was one of the best harbours on the whole African coast. This harbour was called Cameroon, and the adjoining mountain was soon called by the same name. Later, when the Germans took possession of the surrounding region, they called the whole district Kamerun, which is the German form of the same name.

This territory lies between the British Crown Colony of Nigeria on the north and French Equatorial Africa on

the south and east. The vigour with which the Germans pursued their policy of insinuating long tongues of strategically important territory between the possessions of their neighbours is shown by one long, narrow extension in the north to Lake Chad, and by another in the south to the navigable stretches of the mighty Congo.

The surface of Cameroon is largely a plateau, which, though highest in the north, is drained in four different directions. On account of the mountainous character of much of the country, the obstacles to navigation in the rivers, and the dense forest growth of the otherwise accessible parts near the coast, much of the country is unexplored, and roads are entirely absent from large areas.

As almost the whole district is within ten degrees of the Equator, the climate is very hot. This is especially true of the narrow plain along the coast. As the interior is higher, the climate there is more tolerable to Europeans. The heavy tropical rains decrease from the coast toward the interior, and this leads to the forests of the coast gradually passing into open park lands, and, finally, to grasslands in the interior.

The products are much the same as those of other parts of Central Africa and are largely collected from the forests. Palm-oil and palm kernels are obtained from the palm-nut tree, rubber from the rubber trees of the forest, and ivory from the tusks of elephants, which still roam in great herds through the interior grasslands. Within recent years the Germans have put many acres under cocoa, and, though the cultivation of this crop was much neglected during the war, now it will undoubtedly rapidly develop again. On the interior grasslands the Bantu negroes rear cattle and grow cereals, especially corn. Countless antelopes also feed over these grasslands, only to become the prey of the many carnivora that lurk in the same regions.

Though the population is almost as great as that of the Province of Quebec, there were fewer than two hundred whites in the whole district in 1914, and, as many of these were German officials, the number is now probably still less.

The chief commercial activity is concentrated about Cameroon Harbour, which, as was stated, is one of the best on the African coast. Duala, the chief city on this harbour, is the centre from which the few hundred miles of railway ramify. Buea, the former capital, is situated on the side of Cameroon Mountain.

France has been given a mandate over about nine tenths of Cameroon and Britain over the remainder. Britain's share consists of a narrow strip about twenty miles in average width along the whole Nigerian border. At the coast it includes a part of Cameroon Harbour, though Duala, the most important town, is on the French side of the boundary. The former German capital, Buea, however, is in British territory, as is Cameroon Mountain, the highest peak in the western part of Africa. Since Kilimanjaro, the highest known peak in Africa, is in Tanganyika Territory, over which Britain has also been given a mandate, the British Empire can now boast the unique distinction of containing the highest peaks on both the east and the west side of the continent.

The narrow strip of Cameroon ceded to Britain has been added to Nigeria, Britain's most populous and prosperous crown colony in Africa.

The French share of Cameroon has been incorporated into French Equatorial Africa. Since much less is known of the French portion of the country, its resources, which undoubtedly will prove considerable, are little known as yet. This addition to the French colonial possessions is of great value, since it formed a barrier between the southern part of French Equatorial Africa and the

northern part of that colony. Now the whole French African Colonial Empire, with the exception of French Somali, is continuous. It stretches from the Mediterranean Sea on the north to the Congo on the south, and from the Atlantic Ocean on the west to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan on the east. This consolidation will greatly aid the building of roads and railways and the organizing of efficient government and defence.

#### DAMARALAND

(Formerly German South-West Africa)

German South-West Africa was the only one of the German African colonies suited to be a "white man's country." The others lie too close to the Equator, but this region, though half of it lies within the torrid zone, is so largely a plateau that the temperatures are suited to Europeans. Indeed, a thin coating of ice is not unknown in the depths of winter during June and July. It, therefore, has a much larger number of whites than any of the other German colonies in Africa. Out of a total population of two hundred thousand, nearly fifteen thousand are white. The greater number of these are Germans, but in the south there is a considerable sprinkling of Boers and British, who have trekked from the adjoining parts of South Africa. The natives, who are blacks, have greatly decreased in numbers as a result of Germany's ruthless war against them.

This colony, almost as large as British Columbia, lies between Angola, a Portuguese possession on the north, and Cape Province (formerly Cape Colony) on the south. On the east of the colony is Bechuanaland, a British protectorate. From the north-east corner, one of those long, narrow, strategic arms, already mentioned, projects eastward over four hundred miles to the Zambesi River. With the exception of Walfish Bay, there is not a single

good harbour along the whole low, dune-marked coast. This harbour, however, never belonged to Germany, as it, with a considerable area in its vicinity, was British and was incorporated with Cape Colony in 1884.

With the exception of a narrow strip of coast, the whole of Damaraland is part of the South African plateau. The coast is as completely desert as that of Northern Chile and for a similar reason. The rainfall increases toward the east and north, but no part of the whole region receives sufficient precipitation. For this reason it is unsuitable for agriculture, but in the northern and the central parts of the plateau cattle can find sufficient herbage on the veld, and in the south sheep, goats, and camels manage to eke out an existence.

Up to 1911 these animals and their products were the chief wealth of the country, but during that year diamonds were discovered in the south, and they have since become a very important source of wealth. In the north copper mines have been worked for years.

South Africa was given a mandate over this colony, and it has been incorporated with the Union. Its name has been changed to Damaraland, an old name of the land of the Hereros, who have been almost entirely exterminated by the ruthless wars of the Germans.

The loss of this colony is felt very keenly by Germany, since it was the only one suitable to receive the excess population of the fatherland.

#### TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

(Formerly German East Africa)

German East Africa was the brightest gem in Germany's colonial crown. There were several reasons for this. It is the largest and most populous of all her former colonial possessions. It is almost twice as large as Germany itself, and the population is nearly eight

millions. The natives are of fine physical type and of superior intelligence; besides which they are more skilful and more willing to work than most of the tropical tribes. Although the whole country is close to the Equator, its great altitude moderates the climate, so that in many of the higher parts the temperature is tolerable to Europeans, though the bracing qualities of alternating summer and winter are missing. Its contact with the three most important lakes on the continent—Victoria Nyanza, Tanganyika, and Nyasa—is of great value for transportation. Again, this colony (by forming a bar to the all-British Cape-to-Cairo railway) satisfied the German desire to curb the strength of Britain in Africa. Because of a fertile soil and a variety of climate corresponding with the different altitudes, the products of this great district are numerous, varied, and easily grown. It is no wonder that Germany valued her colony highly.

The Germans spent large sums on the construction of roads and railways. Some excellent roads cross the country, and one railway runs all the way from the coast to Lake Tanganyika. The coast, which is largely coral, has a number of good ports, the chief of which is Dar-es-Salaam, the former capital and the eastern terminus of the railway.

Besides the four or five thousand Europeans (mostly Germans) there were large numbers of Arabs and Indian traders in the ports and interior towns. Of course, since the war, the number of Germans has greatly decreased.

The chief industry is agriculture, and the most important cultivated crops are sisal-hemp and rubber. Cotton, coffee, bananas, and many other tropical products are grown. From the forests are obtained rubber, copal, bark, and valuable timber, such as teak and mahogany.

Britain was given the mandate for German East Africa; but, out of gratitude for the noble part played by



Belgium in the war, Britain has handed over to her two of the most valuable provinces in the north-west between Lake Kiva and Victoria Nyanza. These Belgian provinces, though small, are important, as they are high and healthy. They have been described as "a land flowing with milk and honey," where bee culture and the breeding of cattle flourish, and the cultivated soils bear rich crops of fruits. The Belgians estimate the population at nearly three millions.

Britain's part of the region is of great value, as it gives her continuous territory from the Cape of Good Hope on the south to Egypt on the north, with the consequent unity of effort and commercial activity which such unity promotes. It makes the dream of South Africa's great statesman, Cecil Rhodes, of an all-red railway from the Cape to Cairo possible of realization. In the north this famous railway now extends from Cairo to beyond Khartum, with only one small break along the Nile. In the south it extends from Cape Town through Kimberley, Mafeking, Buluwayo, and Livingstone near Victoria Falls, to Broken Hill. Thus at least half of the line is already completed, and, now that the way is clear, further rapid strides in its construction will undoubtedly be made.

**Other Changes.**—Other trifling changes have been brought about in Africa. Up to the outbreak of the war, Egypt was nominally a part of the Turkish Empire, occupied temporarily by Britain. When Turkey joined the Central Powers, England declared a protectorate over Egypt, which has been continued since the war and is likely to be permanent.

Tripoli, which is a protectorate of Italy, has had its eastern boundary extended so as to include a part of what was formerly Western Egypt; but, as the addition is very largely desert, the geographical importance of the transfer is not great.

## ASIA AND OCEANIA

The political changes in Asia affect chiefly the Turkish Empire and Arabia. However, changes of considerable importance have taken place in several of the East India Islands, as well as in the German insular possessions scattered over the Pacific Ocean. These will now be dealt with in turn.

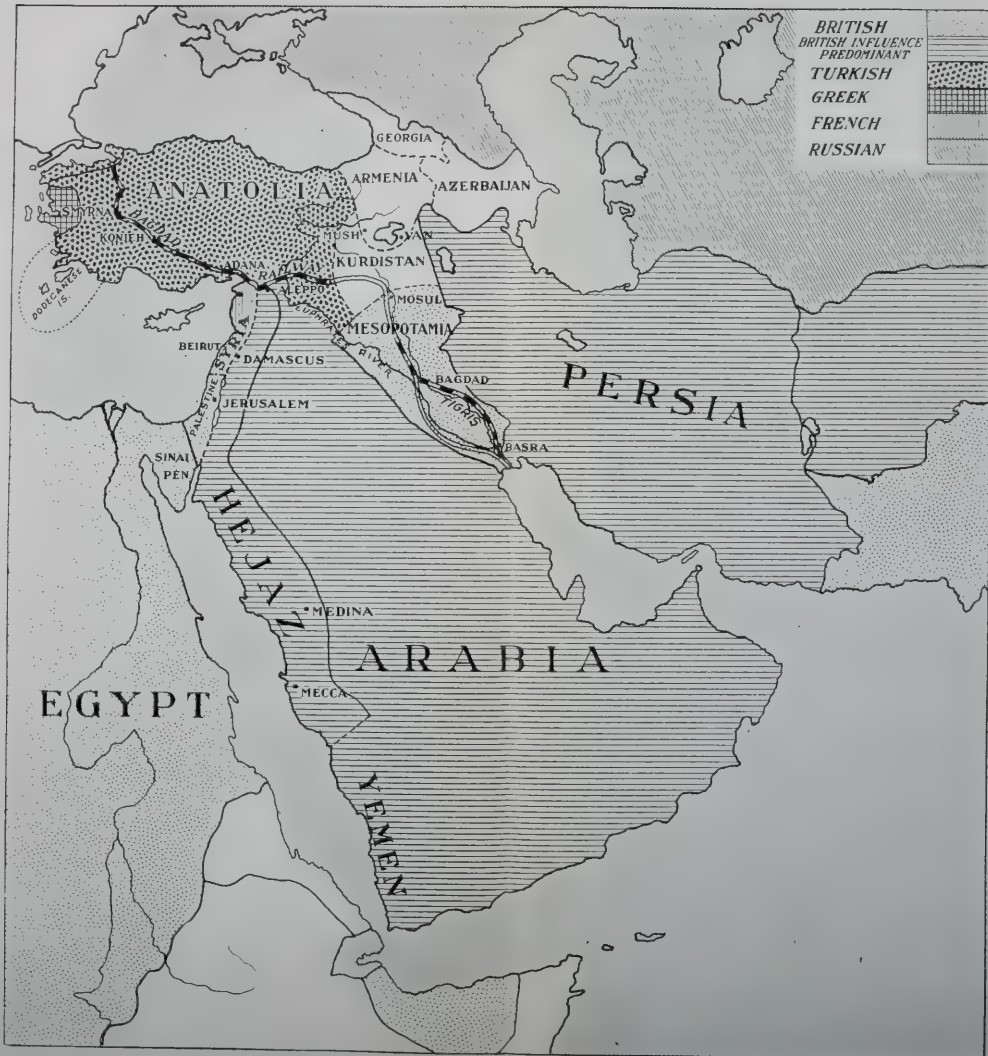
### TURKEY IN ASIA

In order to understand the position of Asiatic Turkey according to the peace treaty, it will be necessary to describe the position of the various provinces before the war.

The peninsula lying between the Black Sea on the north and the Mediterranean Sea on the south is called Anatolia, or Asia Minor. The highland district to the north-east of Anatolia is Armenia, which touches the Black Sea in the north and contains the upper course of the Euphrates River.

South of Armenia is Kurdistan, the home of the savage Kurds. This province is bounded by Persia on the east and extends south to the upper course of the Tigris River.

South of Asia Minor and at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea is the province of Syria, which some consider to extend across the Syrian Desert to Mesopotamia, though others place its eastern boundary on the edge of the desert. The south-western part of Syria lying between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea is called Palestine. The province of Hejaz, which lies on the coast of the Red Sea to the south of Syria, is very important, as it contains the two most sacred cities of the Moslems—Mecca and Medina—as well as the railway connecting the former city with Syria.





Farther south is the state of Yemen.

Finally, lying between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers and extending from Kurdistan to the Persian Gulf is the great plain of Mesopotamia, the southern part of which is often called Irak.

All the districts so far mentioned were provinces in the Turkish Empire. The remaining parts of the Arabian Peninsula, however, were largely governed by their native sheiks and paid little or no allegiance to the Sultan of Turkey.

The war has brought about profound changes in this part of the world. Many of the new boundaries have not yet been definitely fixed and, on account of the backward and unsettled state of the country and the difficulties of transport, are likely to remain uncertain for some time to come.

The King of the Hejaz, who was influenced by Britain to enter the war, has been made nominally independent, but is in reality much under the influence of Great Britain, which furnished him with all the instruments of war and strongly supported him in his claim for independence. Moreover, a large part of Arabia is likely to be brought under his control, and thus indirectly under the control of Great Britain.

Turkey retains not only a part of European Turkey, but also almost all of Anatolia and Kurdistan. The boundaries of the new state of Armenia, yet to be settled, will probably extend to the Black Sea. It will be, however, chiefly an inland, mountainous state with its centre in the Armenian cities of Mush and Van, the one to the west and the other to the east of Lake Van.

Syria, with the exception of Palestine, comes under the French mandate. The port of Beirut is the chief city in French Syria, Aleppo and Damascus being the two inland cities of greatest size.

The provinces the mandates for which fall to Britain are of exceptional interest. Palestine, the Holy Land, with all its hallowed memories, has at last been taken from the blighting control of Turkish tyranny and placed under the protection of the British Empire. On the south it is continuous with Egypt by means of the Sinai Peninsula, also a British possession. Then again Mesopotamia, the home of the great world powers of Assyria and Babylonia, comes under the British flag.

It will be necessary to refer briefly to each of these territories.

**Anatolia.**—This is a land of great mineral resources and has many productive valleys, but, owing to the misgovernment of the Turks, its industries have never been developed. It is the real home of the Turks, and the only part of the world in which they form the predominant portion of the population. Along much of the Aegean Coast Greeks form the largest element of the population and are the chief traders. They are especially influential in the great seaport of Smyrna, which is really a Greek city. As has already been stated, this city, together with a strip of coast land over one hundred miles long and sixty wide, has been made independent of Turkey and is likely to become a part of Greece.

**Armenia.**—This is a cold, mountainous country, with settlements chiefly in the deep, fertile valleys. In very few parts of this province do the Armenians form the majority of the population. In Turkish Armenia the total number of Armenians before the recent massacres was about a million and a half, while the number of Moslems was nearly five millions. However, on account of their superior intelligence, industry, and business ability, the influence of the Armenians has been great beyond their numbers in many parts of Asiatic Turkey.

For this reason, and above all, on account of their Christian religion, they are greatly hated by the Moslem Turks and Kurds.

**Syria.**—This country, which goes to France, is one of the most fertile parts of Asiatic Turkey. In it the influence of France has long been predominant. Heavy rains make it easy to grow good crops of wheat and tobacco; silk and wool are also exported.

**Palestine.**—The country is valuable as an addition to the British Empire rather for sentimental than for economic reasons. While it was truly at one time “a land flowing with milk and honey,” several factors have destroyed this happy condition. The destruction of the forests has caused the rushing torrents of the rainy season (November to April) to wash away the fertile soil from the terraced highlands above, and thus to destroy their productivity. Besides, many of the aqueducts and cisterns, which were formerly used for irrigation, have been destroyed. The chief cause, however, of the unfortunate condition of Palestine has been the misrule of the Turks, which has destroyed the initiative and crushed the spirit of the people.

The government of Palestine by the British, beginning in 1917, brought an improvement which was at once noticeable. With an increase in the water supply and with settled government, the fertile soil and adequate rains will again make the province “blossom as the rose.”

So heterogeneous is the population of Palestine that it was recently found that in Jerusalem alone no fewer than fifty languages were spoken. The Bedouins, a race of nomads of pure Arab blood, wander throughout the land with their flocks as did the patriarchs in days of old. The agriculturists are largely Canaanites. Besides an im-

portant Christian element, there has been a steady immigration of Jews, especially into the vicinity of Jerusalem. Now that the country has come under British rule, there will undoubtedly be a steady stream of Jews from the English-speaking countries and from continental Europe moving back to their sacred land. At present, however, the Moslems are greatly in the majority. Of a total population of six hundred and fifty thousand, at least two thirds are Moslems; the rest are Christians and Jews.

**Mesopotamia.**—This country is of much greater economic importance to Britain than is Palestine. Its agricultural possibilities are very great. The soil is largely deltaic alluvium, deposited by the two great rivers—Euphrates and Tigris. Though the district itself is almost rainless, the steady currents of the rivers, due to the melting of the snows in the Armenian highlands, bring abundant water for irrigation. Indeed, the old irrigation canals which were used in ancient times are found everywhere. Mesopotamia is also important because it is the natural outlet for the immense oil-fields of Southern Persia, which are already controlled by the British Government. The value to Britain of this control of the oil-fields cannot be overestimated. Oil is the fuel of the future for propelling boats, and already the ships of the British navy are being rapidly adapted to burn oil. Since all the other great oil-fields of the world (in the United States, Mexico, and Russia) are outside of the British Empire, it is of vital importance that Britain should own and control her own supply. The mandate over Mesopotamia has accomplished this result. Finally, it is through Mesopotamia that the last six hundred miles of one of the most important Asiatic railways—the Bagdad railway—runs.



## ARABIA

Except for a narrow strip around the coast, Arabia is largely unexplored. But undoubtedly in the interior there are oases with villages in them; and at certain seasons excellent pasturage for camels is found in many of even the driest parts of the country. Though Arabia is not a British possession, there is no doubt that it will be largely under the protection and influence of Britain, and that its trade will be chiefly with the British Empire.

## PERSIA

Since the close of the war the relations between Britain and Persia have been greatly improved. Before this event Russia possessed the chief influence and trade with this country, which was divided into three zones—a northern one controlled by Russia, a southern one controlled by Britain, and a neutral zone between the two. The zone under Russian influence was much the largest, most populous, and most productive. With the collapse of Russia, however, her influence disappeared. Only quite recently, a treaty has been signed by Great Britain and Persia, which gives Britain control of the political, financial, and military affairs of that country. Undoubtedly the result of this treaty will be to make British influence paramount in Persia's economic and commercial affairs.

The total results, therefore, of the Great War, as far as the relations between Southern Asia and Great Britain are concerned, are evidently very remarkable. It is no exaggeration to say that almost the whole of Southern Asia is now either part of the British Empire or under its protection and influence. A stretch of territory from Palestine, Egypt, and the Sudan, through Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, Baluchistan, India, Burma, Malay,

Borneo (in part), and New Guinea, is either British or under British influence.

#### THE BAGDAD RAILWAY

This famous railway has both commercial and political importance. One terminus is on the Bosphorus just opposite Constantinople, from which point it runs south and then east through Anatolia. It passes through the towns of Konieh, Adana, and Aleppo, then strikes across the Syrian Desert to Mosul on the Tigris River, runs down through Mesopotamia, and terminates at Basra, a seaport on the river which is formed by the union of the Euphrates and the Tigris. The only part of this railway not now completed is a section about three hundred miles long lying in about equal parts on each side of Mosul.

The Orient Railway is a notable European line which runs from Paris through Strasbourg, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade, to Constantinople. Since ferries transfer the trains across the Bosphorus, these two lines—the Orient and the Bagdad—furnish the most direct and rapid route from all the great cities of Europe to the Persian Gulf, India, and South China. Its commercial importance cannot be exaggerated, and from a military standpoint its strategic value to a nation which wished to suddenly throw troops into India cannot be overestimated. The Bagdad Railway, as well as the greater part of the Orient Railway in Europe, was before the war controlled by Germany and her allies. One result of the war has been to destroy German control of the Bagdad Railway. Britain's control of Mesopotamia places the whole eastern end of the railway in British hands.

## KIAO CHAU

The only part of the mainland of Asia the ownership of which has been affected, is the district of Kiao Chau, on the coast of the province of Shantung in China. This region was first leased by Germany, and afterwards made a protectorate. Its chief value to the Germans was to give them a naval base on the Pacific coast of Asia. In 1919 it was granted temporarily to Japan, which had conquered it early in the war; but it is ultimately to be restored to China.

## THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Germany's possessions in the Pacific were not very valuable from an economic standpoint, but to a great naval nation they might have been of value as coaling stations, as submarine bases, and as centres of communication by means of powerful wireless stations.

Her largest island possession was Kaiser Wilhelm's Land in New Guinea, the largest island in the world with the exception of Australia. The German section of this island was in the north-eastern part, the south-eastern part belonging to Great Britain.

To the east of New Guinea Germany possessed the Bismarck Archipelago—a group of lofty volcanic islands, and still farther east two of the Solomon Islands.

Much farther east are the Samoa Islands, notable as the home and burial place of Robert Louis Stevenson. The western members of this group belonged to Germany and the eastern members to the United States. Samoa is notable for its fertile soil, the luxuriant growth of its forests, and the superior qualities of its natives.

All the islands mentioned thus far are south of the Equator. North of the Equator and east of the Philippine Islands are several groups of low coral islands which

formerly belonged to Germany. From west to east three of the groups are named, respectively, Pelew, Caroline, and Marshall Islands. To the north of the Carolines is a fourth group—the Mariana or Ladrone Islands. All are composed of narrow strips of coral sand, seldom six hundred yards wide and of no great productivity. The natives are quiet, and skilful at boat-making and sailing.

By the terms of peace Japan was given a mandate over the islands north of the Equator, namely, the Pelew, Caroline, Marshall, and Mariana.

Australia was given a mandate over all those islands south of the Equator, with the exception of German Samoa, which was given to New Zealand. Accordingly, Australia has a mandate over Kaiser Wilhelm's Land, the Bismarck Archipelago, and the German Solomon Islands. One of the first things Australia did, after assuming her mandate, was to restore to many of the islands their original English names, which had been Germanized by their former owner. For example, in the Bismarck Archipelago, Neu Pommern was given its former name of New Britain; Neu Mecklenburg was changed to New Ireland, and the whole Bismarck group was given the good old English name of New Britain Archipelago.













